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already have it.

Rena



Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center

A Project of the Native American Community Board

WICOZANNI WOWAPI

GOOD HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Winter 1997-98

Domestic Violence - Examine Your Own Life

by Charon Asetoyer

Domestic violence is a very personal matter. However, no matter how personal it is, domestic violence is against the law. People who commit an act of violence against another person are criminals and must be treated as such. No matter how harsh that statement may seem the fact is it is true. Domestic violence is a criminal act against another person, usually against your spouse and sometimes against your children.

History plays a large part in how society looks at domestic violence. European society looked toward men as the sole role in decision making. The concept was that women were property and thus the man was to decide what liberties women were to have within the household and within society as a whole. European women were not allowed to take part in voting or decision making of any kind. When the Europeans invaded our Nations they brought their ideas of European rule with them. Women were to have no input into the decision making process.

Laws were passed that gave men all of the ownership of land and assets, making women and men unequal. This concept was very foreign to Indigenous Peoples of the western hemisphere, especially Indigenous women.

Indigenous women were actively involved in the governance of their nations. They had a say in decisions that were made in the lodge meetings concerning all matters. It was felt that women's participation meant that a balance was present and therefore women's opinions were respected. In matrilineal societies, women owned land and controlled the profits made from it. They also had authority over their children. Divorce was decided by the woman. The woman kept her land, home, and children.

In the Cherokee and the Iroquois Nations, the women created the govern-

ment. Women were responsible for representing children's interests as well as their own. The most influential women of those Nations were the Clan Mothers. Clan Mothers nominated chiefs and subchiefs and advised them in times of war. To this day the Clan Mothers of the Iroquois Nations still select the chiefs and subchiefs, and advise them on matters of their Nations.

However, in the 1820's the U.S. government instituted its "civilization" policy. One of the requirements of the "civilization" policy was that women be excluded from tribal government. This enforced the European concept that men control the decision making, disregarding women's input in the process. Until 1924, American women did not have the right to vote in the United States. The U.S. government did not want Indigenous women to have political power either, for fear that white women would want the same rights.

In traditional societies women are respected. Their opinions and decisions have a very important place in all levels of society. Without the full participation of women in the decision and policy making, there exists no balance. All things in nature must have balance in order to maintain a healthy existence. Often, this is referred to as natural law. When man takes away a women's right to participate in the decision making within the home, the balance of that home is no longer equal and natural law has been broken. Chaos in that home is usually the outcome. This kind of chaos can be seen over and over again when the balance is one sided and the scale is tipped in society at large.

Remember that this is the European male model of control. As the one sided balance moves from the home and into the general population you can see this

being reproduced in society. The way the European male used this same method to maintain control within his household, he too, used it to assert control in society. He made all the laws that gave the European male the power over Indigenous Peoples, Black People, Asians, and other minorities in this country. Keeping that in mind one must examine the outcome of having all of that power and control over people and how that power has taken away the balance that provides equality. Look around. Do you see balance in society in this country or even in the world?

As Indigenous men, are you respecting natural law within your home? Do you and your spouse respect each other's opinions? Are decisions a joint process or are they made only by the "man of the house"? Remember that "I'm the king in my castle" is a European concept. If you have all of the control and make all of the decisions within the home than there is no balance. You are asserting the power and control over another person.

Are you an Indigenous man that respects natural law and respects other humans, or are you taking on the "white European male model of "Power and Control", thus destroying the balance and harmony of the home and of nature?

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Editor.....Charon Asetoyer
Asst. Ed. & Layout.....Rebecca Nagel

Combating Domestic Violence with Education and Training

by Rebecca Nagel

The Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center began Domestic Violence Awareness month October 1st by sponsoring both the local police training session and youth workshop on domestic violence. Cangleska, Inc., an organization that addresses domestic violence through outreach and direct service, gave both workshops. Organizing on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Cangleska, Inc. has since expanded in order to address domestic violence issues throughout the Native American community. Two of the founding members of this organization, Karen Artichoker and Marlin Mousseau, recently received the Marshalls Domestic Peace Prize for their efforts.

The police training was open to both the BIA and county police officers. The training addressed the importance of a coordinated and educated response to domestic violence that involves communication between law enforcement, shelter advocates, and the court. The training covered the dynamics of battering relationships, probable cause, victim protection, police liability, and a discussion of the difficulties in jurisdiction within the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

George Twiss, a speaker during the officer training session and Cangleska, Inc.'s director for Coordinated Response/Probation explained the organization's involvement in these and other training sessions. "Part of our grant is to develop resources and materials and share them with other tribes... this includes law enforcement training, [Cangleska's] men's group, program planning, and probation [working with those on probation for a

domestic violence offense] on a nationwide basis. The results the program is working towards are increased awareness by law enforcement and better coordination between advocates and law enforcement and the court. We try to increase victim safety and make batterers more accountable by coordinating and operating a team approach to domestic violence. Through trainings like this we help [law enforcement] address some specific jurisdictional problems and give ideas on how to make the system function better."

The youth workshop was attended by both Youth Advisory Council and Child Development Program members and focused on

explanations of domestic violence, forms of abuse, the effects of domestic violence within the family and dating relationships, and the importance of non-violent approaches to conflict in their own lives. One of the speakers, Karen Artichoker emphasized the use of Native traditions in combating domestic violence. "As Native people, we have a responsibility to be respectful to each other because that's how the Creator made us... We talk about



*George Twiss offers his insights to Lake Andes police, BIA officers, and NAWHERC staff
(Photo by Janel Simonsen)*

how we are all related and when we say that, that's a prayer. It means that we're supposed to be respectful of each other. But lots of us have had hard lives and some of us have forgotten... how to behave, forgotten how the Creator intended us to be." This tenet is especially important within a dating or marital relationship because "as women that's how we want to be treated and as men that's how we want you to treat us: respectful."

Here are a few things you can do to take responsibility to end domestic violence:

1. Examine your own life and work to end violence against women.
2. Cultivate a respectful attitude toward women in your family and at your workplace. Avoid behaviors that demean or control women.
3. When you are angry at your partner or children, respond without hurting or humiliating them. Model a non-violent, respectful response to resolving conflicts in your family. Call a domestic violence or child abuse prevention program for their help if you continue to hurt members of your family.
4. If you have a friend or co-worker who is afraid of her partner or who is being hurt, offer her your support and give her the number of the nearest shelter. For shelter assistance in Charles Mix, Eastern Gregory, and Southern Douglas counties call this 24-hour hotline: (605)487-7130.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE.

5. Learn about domestic violence services in your community. Contribute your time, resources, or money.
6. Call the police if you see or hear violence in progress. Write the time and date down on a piece of paper when you called the police and reported the incident. This may help out the victim or her family later if the police did not respond and she is hurt or killed.
7. Remember, the state of South Dakota and the Yankton Sioux Tribe have a "mandatory arrest law." This means that it is mandatory for the police to arrest the abuser even if the women does not sign a complaint. If the police do not arrest the abuser then report it to the nearest shelter, the Chief of Police or the Police Captain, the prosecutor, and the Tribal Council.

Resource Center Report Card by Chelsea Harper

During September and October of 1997 the Resource Center conducted a Community Survey to poll community members who have used the Center's programs and services since the Center opened in 1988. YAC members, current families of Child Development Program students, food pantry recipients, community members who have used the Center's programs in the past, and other participants in Center programs were asked to complete a three page survey.

Survey results were encouraging in that the majority of respondents reported increases in skills and knowledge learned, positive life-style changes, and positive community changes. For example, 72% of respondents felt that they had learned ways to make healthier choices, and 76% reported that they felt better about themselves because of the Center's programs and services. However, alcohol and drug abuse continues to be the overwhelming health concern for community members.

Many of the written comments in the surveys emphasized that if the Center did not provide such services as The Women's Lodge, the food pantry, and the Child Development Program, there would be no other place to get those services. One respondent wrote, "Thank you for all of your help - there should be more organizations like this one."



Congratulations to the Fall 1997 scholarship winners

Lois Weddell III of Wagner, SD. Lois attends the Ihanktowan Community College and is majoring in Business.

Lana Gravatt of Lake Andes, SD. Lana attends the Ihanktowan Community College and is studying International Relations.

If you are a woman enrolled in the Yankton Sioux Tribe who is interested in applying for a scholarship for Spring 1998, call Janel Simonsen at 487-7072 for information and an application form.



HIV Prevention Project Update by Chelsea Harper

For several years the Indian Health Service has maintained a contract with the Resource Center to provide HIV-prevention supplies to Sundance chiefs in the Aberdeen area. Starting with the 1998 Sundance season, however, supplies will be provided directly to Sundance chiefs by the pharmacies of every IHS service unit in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

All Sundance chiefs who have participated in our HIV-prevention program have been notified of this change and an order form has been distributed to assist in ordering gloves, needles, scalpels, waste containers, and alcohol pads. Each year requests for Sundance supplies have increased, and it is our hope that the Resource Center's efforts at HIV-prevention education will continue to reach all Sundance participants.

This issue's featured "Product with a Message" is:

The Domestic Violence Awareness Mousepad



***Violence Against Women
Against The Law***

By using a "Product with a Message," you are supporting the work of the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center, a reservation-based organization, and spreading the word about important issues facing native peoples.

**Call 605-487-7072 to order
or**

**Visit our new Home Page to find our
other exciting products:
<http://www.nativeshop.org>**

Meet Our New Interns!



Patricia Bachman is from Bogota, Columbia and is presently working on receiving her masters of social/cultural anthropology from Ciiis California Institute of Integral Studies in San Fransisco. Welcome Patricia!

Rebecca Nagel is from New Jersey and is a recent graduate of Oberlin College. She spent the summer working on a research study on children with developmental disabilities. Her projects include the newsletter, the YAC Advisor, and environmental issues. Welcome Rebecca!

Laura Smock is from Massachusetts and is a recent graduate of Brown University. She worked for the Emory Medical School Family Planning Program this summer and hopes to attend medical school following her internship. Her projects include the Clearinghouse, the web site, and the United Nations Project. Welcome Laura!

**NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S
HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER
P.O. BOX 572
LAKE ANDES, SD 57356**

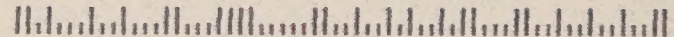
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Native American Community Board Scholarship Fund

The NACB has been working hard over the past few years to raise funding for its scholarships. Currently, the scholarship is for unmet mid-semester needs. To date, we have provided more than fifteen scholarships.

The scholarship fund is currently at \$18,500. The scholarship committee revised its goal from \$12,000 to \$20,000. The new goal of \$20,000 will be raised over the next five years.

We are asking for your help in raising the funds necessary to reach our new goal of \$20,000. This new amount will allow for a total of eight scholarships to be awarded each year.

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

 **\$18,500**

**NEW GOAL
\$20,000**

Please send your donations to:

**NACB/Scholarship
P.O. Box 572
Lake Andes, SD 57356**

For information call:

(605)487-7072

or E-MAIL us at:

nativewoman@igc.apc.org

The Native American Community Board is a tax exempt non-profit 501(c) organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

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NACF Anda: aaaaaa Circle Talk ~~~~~

Greetings! And welcome to our room!

Tonight's speaker will be Can U Cee and she will be presenting the subject:

Native America Myths & Legends:

The Deception of a Nation in Domestic Violence

In case you don't know. . .

Can U Cee is part of the Southern Arizona Coalition on Violence Against Women in Indian Country & lítom Plan de Paz Domestic Violence Council of Guadalupe, Arizona

So please help me welcomeCan U Cee. . . to our meeting!!

Can U Cee: Within all communities, including those of NA population, violence against women and children is a pervasive and destructive reality. As Native American practitioners working in the field of stopping menís violence against women, we remain uncompromising in promoting the belief that WOMEN BATTERING IS NOT TRADITIONAL. We promote the teachings regarding the status of women as bearers of life to be revered and protected as encompassing our future. These are teachings that have been handed down through generations of our culture. The ideals that women shall live free of violence, control their own lives and affairs, manage their own assets, and have influence over things which directly affect their lives are key elements upon which our beliefs are based.

Menís violence against womenóspousal abuse, woman battering, intimate partner or domestic violenceóis not about a coupleís failure to communicate, loss of temper, stress, or poor impulse control. It is not a disease or caused by alcohol or drug useóeven when substance abuse is involved, it is not about low self-esteem, and it is not a demonstration of someone loving too much. Menís use of violence and ABUSE IS ABOUT THE ABILITY TO CONTROL BY FORCE OR

ACCOUNT FILE LISTING

MAIBACH VARIOUS DRUG
MAIBACH
07/01/95-06/30/96

MAIBACH

444920611023

Total Grant Budget	0.00
Current Expenses	0.00

Current Grant Balance	0.00
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			Date
SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	444920611023-3	0.00	Reconciled

Total Expenses :	SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	0.00	
Current Balance:	SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	0.00	
		=====	
(Reconciled Balance:	0.00)		

COERCION. It is the exercise of physical or other advantage TO DOMINATE ANOTHER in violation of family intimacy and trust, and the use of emotional and psychological force to manipulate the environment AS THE ABUSER CHOOSES in a manner decreasing the ability, effectiveness, and over-all conditions of the victims. It is the DELIBERATE AND FORCEFUL IMPOSITION OF WILL, abusively and criminallyóAGAINST THE VICTIMÍS RESISTANCE.

Native View of Justice: Indigenous American society was based on customs and laws which regulated membersí behavior; systems that were not sets of rules learned separately from spiritual and religious beliefs but were interwoven into everyday life. As with all cultures, justice within Native communities was viewed in relation to what is socially acceptable and the setting and maintaining of norms; behavior of individuals and groups assessed as to whether it contravenes an established social norm. These norms had profound meaning when based on the maintenance of balance/justice or harmony in the spiritual, emotional, physical, or social well-being of the individual, the family, and the community.

Antisocial behavior was viewed as resulting from an imbalance in one, if not all, of these areas and a violation of these social norms then became an offense against everyone who is affected by the offense, which on occasion may include the whole tribe. Individuals were viewed as being responsible for their actions and the community or tribe was considered responsible for the overall restoration of harmony, balance, and order including addressing the cause of the imbalance, or motive for offending, which was considered essential if the dispute was to be resolved to everyoneís satisfaction. The offender alone did not define nor determine the outcome of the offense. Shared values about right and wrong and the laws to which they are linked grew from beliefs about the responsibility individuals had to each other and to the group.

Indigenous American history, prior to ìdominanceî by Europeans, reveals rarity of violence against women and children. When occurring, sanctions of social rejection of the offender and an amends making process were performed. A woman who broke the household because of abuse was viewed as honorable for having the strength and dignity in leaving a

ACCOUNT FILE LISTING

WESTER VARIOUS DRUGS
RON WESTER
07/01/93-06/30/94

44492061192

Total Grant Budget	260,078.06
Current Expenses	0.00
Current Grant Balance	260,078.06

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SALARIES-ACADEMIC 44492061192 -0 0.00	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : SALARIES-ACADEMIC	0.00
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Current Balance: SALARIES-ACADEMIC	0.00
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(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)	
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SALARIES-STAFF 44492061192 -1 0.00	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : SALARIES-STAFF	0.00
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Current Balance: SALARIES-STAFF	0.00
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(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)	
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GENERAL ASSISTANCE 44492061192 -2 0.00	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : GENERAL ASSISTANCE	0.00
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Current Balance: GENERAL ASSISTANCE	0.00
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(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)	
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=====	Date
SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE 44492061192 -3 235,676.08	Reconciled
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01/12/94	AB5426R014	FED EXPRESS	25.00
02/02/94	SF5426R027	CALTECH TRAINING SYSTEMS	450.00
06/23/94	9399R181	CELL CULTURE	75.84
11/14/94	DP5426RS03	AT&T	183.99
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r
06/30/97		Summary of deleted charges	5,812.47 r

Total Expenses : SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	35,609.65
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Current Balance: SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	200,066.43
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destructive relationship, was free to make the man leave her lodge and did not have to fear retaliation or terrorism. The offender recognized the woman's right to make her own choices and if he could not respect this, the Tribe intervened to insure her safety and teach him proper behavior.

The current climate of social tolerance of violence against women in the home allows the seeds of violence to be sown into the next generation. Pregnancy appears to be a particularly hazardous time for women as over 30% of all pregnant women are battered with effects resulting in miscarriage, spontaneous abortion and stillbirth. More babies are born with birth defects as a result of the mother's being battered than a combination of all diseases and illnesses for which we now immunize pregnant women.

The Judicial Response: Legal intervention on behalf of abused women, wives, and children is a recent phenomenon. Until the late nineteenth century, wives and children possessed no legal status or rights under the law and lacked legal remedy against abuse by a violent spouse or family member. It was not until 1988 that all 50 states had enacted laws to provide civil and criminal remedies for victims of domestic violence.

Assaultive behavior is illegal conduct in all states. Domestic violence as a crime involves people intimately connected to one another and/or with continuing family ties who soon after the incident CAN APPEAR TO HAVE A DECEPTIVELY

SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP. Legal intervention becomes difficult when offenders characteristically minimize, rationalize or deny their abusive behavior and the victim becomes reluctant to pursue the matter. Decision makers in the justice system often conclude that violence against a spouse or intimate partner is not real assault, but a family matter in which no legal action is necessary. Courts often have no system of advocacy or needed support services for victims, or for recognizing effective batterer intervention programs which promote victim safety while comprehensively addressing the abusive behavior of the offender. This inadvertently re-victimizes victims in the process and fails to elicit offender accountability.

While communities are not entirely unsympathetic to battered women, few of them are able to provide effective sanctions

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HQ SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES	44492061192 -3H	1,459.27 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : HQ SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES 0.00

Current Balance: HQ SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES 1,459.27

(Reconciled Balance: 1,459.27)

=====		Date
PGE SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES	44492061192 -3P	9,609.16 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : PGE SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES 0.00

Current Balance: PGE SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES 9,609.16

(Reconciled Balance: 9,609.16)

=====		Date
RAMO SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE	44492061192 -3R	558.68 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : RAMO SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE 0.00

Current Balance: RAMO SUPPLIES AND EXPENSE 558.68

(Reconciled Balance: 558.68)

=====		Date
EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES	44492061192 -4	0.00 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES 0.00

Current Balance: EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES 0.00

(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)

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HQ EUIPMENT	44492061192 -4H	0.00 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : HQ EUIPMENT 0.00

Current Balance: HQ EUIPMENT 0.00

(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)

=====		Date
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	44492061192 -6	0.00 Reconciled
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Total Expenses : EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 0.00

Current Balance: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 0.00

(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)

against abusers for their use of violence. It is clear that over time, domestic violence will increase in both frequency and severity unless there is serious and sustained intervention from the law enforcement and justice system.

The strategy cannot be accomplished the justice response alone. Numerous agencies, practitioners, and interactions between these systems and the effected parties forms a continuum of activity as domestic violence cases are recognized, perhaps reported, charged, and sentenced, and as victim safety is ensured through crisis intervention services and long term support for victims and families. A failure within any point on the continuum will limit the success of the entire corrective process, thus impeding the overall remedy. What is needed is a coordinated systems approach, a strategy which includes all components of the justice system in collaboration with community and social agencies intervening in the process.

Furthermore, at all points in the continuum, culturally responsive interventions must be provided in a context reflecting the effected parties to avoid imposing solutions that may be ineffective due to cultural, racial, ethnic or linguistic barriers. Cultural barriers have inhibited the use of law enforcement and court intervention among NA people. Women who are abused and battered are often ambivalent in seeking legal remedy within a complex and unfamiliar system and are further disadvantaged by poverty, isolation and lack advocacy as a resource to promote their safety from crimes of intimate violence.

In spite of these barriers within the justice response, the reduction of domestic violence is now generally accepted as a community goal in which the law enforcement and judicial systems are key. In most communities USE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS IS THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE BY ASSAILANTS.

Preceding the creation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) The Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women adopted December 20, 1993, states (in part): "The General Assembly, concerned that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural

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UNALLOCATED FUNDS	44492061192 -8	0.00	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : UNALLOCATED FUNDS 0.00

Current Balance: UNALLOCATED FUNDS 0.00

(Reconciled Balance: 0.00)

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VARIOUS PI	44492061192 -A	3,648.92	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : VARIOUS PI 0.00

Current Balance: VARIOUS PI 3,648.92

(Reconciled Balance: 3,648.92)

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TRAVEL	44492061192 -T	9,125.95	Reconciled
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Total Expenses : TRAVEL 0.00

Current Balance: TRAVEL 9,125.95

(Reconciled Balance: 9,125.95)

or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence. The Declaration also states: States should condemn violence against women and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination. States to this end should: Develop, in a comprehensive way, preventive approaches and all those measures of a legal, political, administrative and cultural nature that promote the protection of women against any form of violence.

IF WE DO NOT BEGIN TO EFFECT SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST OUR OWN NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN, MEANS WILL BEGIN TO BE IMPOSED FROM THE OUTSIDE. Addressing the problem amongst ourselves would indicate that the solutions to violence against our women lie somewhere within our own hands.

Now let's get to that most widely held MYTH (read: EXCUSE) Drugs and Alcohol: the correlation in Domestic Violence. First, keep in mind, A CORRELATION IS NOT A CAUSE.

There is a common misconception, that Alcohol or drug use causes domestic violence. Creating a heightened awareness of the distinctions between domestic violence behavior and alcohol use is essential. Though alcohol use may be present in assault incidents, we recognize and emphasizes that use of violence is a choice and, in the context of domestic violence, a deliberate choice, drunk or sober, carried out to force victim compliance or punish for perceived non-compliance. A perpetrator with drug/alcohol use has at least two problems that should be addressed separately: substance abuse and Domestic Violence. Research evidence has demonstrated that individuals who abuse alcohol and/or use drugs perpetrate more severe acts of violence, and increased emotional and psychological abuse on their spouse, children, and other family members. Among battering incidents in Arizona during 1996 in which a police report was made, law enforcement indicated 31% of those calls included alcohol use and 3.6 % drug use.

Trauma and Post Traumatic Stress: Recent studies have focused on the incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD) in battered and sexually abused women and children. PTSD as a normal reaction to an abnormal experience. The risk of developing PTSD is high when the stressor is prolonged and repetitive and when it causes physical injury, threatens life, humiliates the victim, or destroys the victim's community and social support systems. Intentional injury for which the victim is made to feel responsible for often has more severe and long lasting effects. Traumatic experiences are especially damaging when trust is violated and family intimacy is corrupted. It is increasingly understood that effects of prolonged traumatic stress are even more varied and pervasive than PTSD.

According to the Harvard Mental Health letter, "Post traumatic reactions have been most thoroughly studied in soldiers, but abused women and children may suffer the most." The effects of Intergenerational Post Traumatic Stress within Indigenous populations puts into perspective ongoing victimization as a context affecting NA populations and allows practitioners to draw parallels when intervening in violent behavior occurring within the population. For instance "USING THE TOOLS OF POWER AND CONTROL BY THE OPPRESSOR AGAINST OUR WOMEN, CHILDREN, MEN, AND THE ELDERLY IS INEXCUSABLE, regardless of the trauma suffered by our people as a whole.

This approach implores practitioners and others involved in domestic violence not to become distracted by mental health models which promote men's violence against women as a problem between individuals. These models deliberately individualize the violence in relationships and ignore the wider social and political context within which violence against women is fostered.

And now... let's open it up to thoughts from the audience.....

QUESTION: Can you tell what the effects of post traumatic stress are? I was told recently I suffered from it yet I feel normal, how does it affect how we raise the children?

Can U Cee: yes disassociating, depression, hypervigilance, anxiety manifest in subtle ways children perceive everything.

COMMENT: I am happy to see that they have made some changes in the law, but as a person who has lived with this in her past, it is still not a good enough

law, I was made to be a bad person and mother because I allowed it to happen so the courts said, but it was proven otherwise and the courts really did nothing to my ex for what he did but slap his hand.

Can U Cee: The laws are good-they are simply not ENFORCED typical experience, Did the behavior change?

COMMENT: true.....they need to be more, but how, I have joined many communities and so forth with nothing ever coming of it...

QUESTION: What do you suggest women do?

Can U Cee: It's what I suggest that abuser's do. That means mostly men. See the subtle victim blaming in that question? What should "woman" do?

COMMENT: No I dont think the men would be listening!

Can U Cee: That's the problem. Not hearing. NOt listening. The deception is created.

QUESTION: I am wondering what us kids can do to get safe if the grown ups in the house don't save us. And even when I told they did not believe me. Then my behaving got very bad and they try to send me to a crazy place. That is when the doctor believed and they took me away. But before that, if you don't have a grown up to help you, how does a kid get away from that?

Can U Cee: "abnormal" is normal under abnormal conditions violence and abuse create the abnormalty no matter what age you are.

QUESTION: I have worked in a State Attorneys office and seen so many women drop charges.. what can be done to encourage these women to go through with charges?

Can U Cee: "Victimless prosecution" takes the load off the already weakened shoulders.....of the victim. Attorney prosecutes with or without the "witness"

COMMENT: But most attorneys are so busy they won't proceed without assistance from the victim.

Can U Cee: Victim advocates in court help too. We need this!

COMMENT: U - I am with you - my only beef is that as a social service professional I get frustrated with the who is providing services to these families and women the approaches used in empowering women and educating families to help make realistic changes are not there. Many times these families are isolated and intimidated by state, federal and private agencies who serve them. I am a extremely strong advocate of more Na Americans entering the social service field to create active links to our people and these services - Alot of indian centers in urban areas are good resources for this kind of thing - we need more NA going into this field (social services) because it does take knowledge and strong base of the culture to make a significant change need more NA therapist, social workers, agencies to provide for own people.

Can U Cee: "the woman".. "women...why don't THEY..." Hey! The focus should be on the ABUSER.

What about the social worker or counselor who is a batterer?
It happens more than you think!
DV offenders should be screened out of any "healer" role for the protection of the injured, vulnerable who look to them for guidance. It's part of the deception of perpetrators.

COMMENT: I agree. The focus should be on the abuser.

Can U Cee: And effective sanctions of the abuser.

QUESTION: How do we encourage men to talk to other men and confront them?
Because I have heard conversations between men that raised the hair on my neck, but they don't seem to think it is any big deal?

Can U Cee: Correct. It is ultimately going to take men to end men's violence against women. That's how we've been deceived as a people to believe that violence against women isn't "any big deal." To whom? The victims?
No.

QUESTION: Are there any programs for them to start understanding? I have seen it work just not enough.

Can U Cee: NO. Men can start by NOT TOLERATING any degrading of women, even verbally and taking a stand that says "THIS IS WRONG"
You'd be surprised how effective it is simply to be rejected for being a dominator type.

□
□COMMENT: My comment is about mostly men as the abusers well women are also,
□ I am sorry to say but they are, although most are men,
□ and as to *** I am sorry to hear what you went thru as a child I had the
□ same it seems that it is a circle and you must stop the circle in your
□ family as I did in mine.
□

□Can U Cee: In cases of what appears to be "mutual" violence, ask yourself who is
□ afraid of whom? Whose life is narrowing?
□ Which one walks on eggshells for fear of the other's outburst?
□ Ask this rather than "compare bruises"
□ 4% of DV is perpetrated by women. Some in same sex relationships.
□

□QUESTION: I would like to hear an answer to THE question on what can a kid do?
□ How are they to protect themselves?
□ What are some of the symptoms in children?
□ When they ask why this happens to them... what do we tell them?
□

□Can U Cee: Simply...they can't. It's so hard to say that. I always wish I had an
□ answer.
□

□QUESTION: How do we help to heal their wounds? And put back the pieces
□ of their lives?
□

□Can U Cee: Acknowledge their hurt, Acknowledge your own desire to help.
□ At some level, it will be communicated to child.
□ It may be all they get is your concern.
□ Until they're older, and can make decisions about what their own life is
□ going to be about.
□

□COMMENT: That does not help them when they are in danger.
□

□Can U Cee: No, it doesn't.
□

□QUESTION: What can they do ... run away?
□

□Can U Cee: It is the hardest part of this field, the children who we cannot reach.
□

□COMMENT: Then.. they are sent to homes and not believed.
□

□Can U Cee: Victims are commonly not believed. It's the deception of perpetrators
□ Here's how it works....Perpetrator harms a child....
□ ...then tells child, "if you don't say anything, I won't tell your mother

what YOU did. Same is true for adult victims
Perpetrator tactics. Society buys it, blames victims
often in subtle ways by having HER solve HER problem.
It's perpetrators problem.

COMMENT: If we don't protect our children.. the chances are... we are raising
Abusers who will abuse us as Elderly.

Can U Cee: True

QUESTION: You have both hit on a factor. In old times, community & peer pressure
controlled bad behavior partly by focusing aggression toward enemies.
Courts are a poor substitute for community spirit and peer pressure. Do
you feel that the sense of community is restorable to an extent to help
with this problem?

Can U Cee: True re: courts. Now we get around to what people in the community
can do!
Adopt an attitude of NO TOLERANCE for abuse
NO VICTIM BLAMING
NO EXCUSES FOR ABUSERS
NO MINIMIZING, DISTORTING THE TRUTH OR DENIAL
Again, social rejection is POWERFUL!
Reject all forms of abuse against others
And thank you, right on!

COMMENT: Thanks, and it has to be done by the men to affect men properly!

COMMENT: I think was misunderstood or something - cause I am still confused - -
- - so going to start from the beginning -
I work for CPS- children's protective services and a lot of the cases I
receive as an in home therapist have domestic violence related issues.
Our goal is to preserve the family - that is the unit I work in
unfortunately when we get involved the domestic violence of the male
has carried over to the children. What I have learned is that family
cannot first be in denial about abuse or minimize it.

Can U Cee: True

If in denial and safety of woman and children is too great
we ask the man to leave home and go into treatment in a men's
group/program for perpetrators and often the women's self esteem due
to the verbal and physical abuse is low and often they are depressed.

like to say that when you talk about what the community can do to help
I say please first BELIEVE THE CHILDREN.

Can U Cee: From the mouths of babes....ya'll listenin'?

Because it seems that grownups are scared to see the hurt in us
and so they turn their heads. But our hurt is still there. and we get a
sick heart and soul. And then I see the grownups who grew up that
way and they have to fight and fight to heal. When if the grownups
could help us kids, we could heal when we are still kids and not have
our whole childhood and laughs taken from us. That is all I wish to
say and thank you much for letting me speak to you. I know it
is hard to want to listen to a kid sometimes so thank you. But this is a
safe place for me to talk and I dont have a lot of safe places. thank you
all.

COMMENT: I am very pleased you are free from your troubles but you have to be
ready for problems with yourself in the future, when you have a girlfriend
and so forth and remember there are many people out here to help you
thru it.

Can U Cee: Bless you

So when I talk about empowering women this is what I meant.
Also my other point is often minorities don't do well in these programs because they do generic case planning for each family's needs vs. drawing strengths and considerations from the families culture. Only other NA or those with extensive knowledge of the culture could be more successful in not only assisting the women but children and males too. Domestic violence is always the product of other social and family problems related to control and power issues - money, abuse as child, etc --- this was my point about us healing our own people.

Can U Cee: True, programs are currently insufficient. But improving slowly. A good one is.....A Model For Family Violence Prevention in Native Amer. Communities.....by Beverly Wilkins of IHS Family Violence Prevention team. I can mail you the program model and give you BW's phone#

COMMENT: Aho I am a first grade teacher with a special education degree. I have worked with many children from abusive families and with the families themselves and what has been shared is right on target. I have one thing to stress: education.
And not just educating the men, but the families and the public. People see shame in this but they don't understand that most abusive people have been abused themselves, and that it is a pattern that is a learned behavior.
When it is brought out in the open and explained in educational terms, much of the threat these abusers feel about others judgement of them will make all the difference in the world. I know...I married a man whos father was horribly abused, then abused my husband, but my husband has never hit me.
But I see that horrible anger in other non physical ways, and we have been able to work together to help change some of these behaviors although I have sometimes wanted to kill him in the process. LOL

Can U Cee: True. Education means get hip to what's really going on in DV dynamics.....thank you for coming out with it.
Get hip means don't play into deception.

COMMENT: I maybe was not clear before. I would like to say I am a kid, I am 12. And it is not so long that I got free from that.

Can U Cee: How did you do it?

And I still don't know what we can do to help ourselves. But I would

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Domestic Violence, 1997-1998, undated

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